



THE BULLETIN

Retired Employees of the City & County of San Francisco, Inc.

President's Message

By Sue Blomberg, President

This month's message is full of reminders, and, even if you already are familiar with most of them, I feel they it is worth the time and space to emphasize them again.

Vote! Many people have permanent absentee ballots mailed to them, and they often vote as soon as they receive them. Our October general membership meeting will feature candidates for offices and supporters of propositions to help you make up your mind.

Plan! October is Fire Safety Month. Be aware of exit locations wherever you may be, and have a plan for notifying family/friends if an emergency occurs. More importantly, have a plan for knowing the correct action to take when faced with an emergency. RECCSF, in conjunction with the United Irish Cultural Center, has designed an action plan to invoke if an emergency occurs during any of our meetings. We'll be sharing specific details with you during the coming months.

Be aware! There are scams proliferating everywhere these



days. Be very cautious about giving out any information to someone you don't know, especially if they initiated the contact. If you receive an e-mail from your Aunt Sally requesting emergency funds, find out if she is *really* in London before wiring any money. Do not give out your credit card information, birth date, bank account number, or other personal information over

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October 2012 Calendar

Regular Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 10
 Socializing and refreshments:
 11:10 – 11:50 a.m.
 Program: 11:30 a.m.
 Business meeting: noon
 Bingo: 12:45 p.m.
 Irish Cultural Center,
 45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.

The Bulletin
Editorial Committee Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 16, 9 a.m.
 Taraval Police Station
 All interested parties welcome.

Executive Board Meeting
Tuesday, Oct 16, 10 a.m.
 Taraval Police Station
 All interested parties welcome.

Public Meetings:
Retired Firemen & Widows Association
 Sunday, Nov. 11, 2 p.m.
 St. Gabriel Caf., 40th Ave. & Ulloa

Veteran Police Officers
 Tuesday, Oct. 9 11 a.m.
 Pacific Rod & Gun Club,
 520 John Muir Dr., at Lake Merced

Retirement System
 Wednesday, Oct. 10, 3 p.m.
 30 Van Ness, Suite 3000

Health Service System
 No meeting in October
 City Hall, Room 416

UESF Retired Division
 For time/location, contact
 Gerry Meister at (415) 956-8373 or
gerrymeister1@earthlink.net

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Useful Phone Numbers

S.F. Retirement System
 Web site: www.sfgov.org/sfers
Phone Numbers:
 (415) 487-7000 • (888) 849-0777

Health Service System
 Web site: www.myhss.org
Phone Numbers:
 (415) 554-1750 • (800) 541-2266
Phone Hours for both:
 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.

New Members

Richard M. Enger REC
 Andrea Goss APS

President's Message

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the telephone. Do not assume that you are at fault if someone approaches you in a parking lot, alleges that you bumped into and damaged his car, but, since he doesn't want to deal with the insurance company, requests \$500 on the spot. Advise telephone solicitors that you will donate to their charities only after you receive the information by U.S. mail. And never open an e-mail attachment if you're not familiar with the sender, even if they use your name and promise something fabulous—you could be unknowingly inviting a deadly virus into your computer.

Review! Do you know whom to contact if your significant other or friend has an emergency? If you live alone, is your emergency contact information easy to locate? Do you have ICE (In Case of Emergency—your contact person) on your cell phone directory? Do you have a will or living trust? Is your insurance (auto, house, life) up to date?

I'm sure that most of us are familiar with the foregoing items, but reminders never hurt!

Membership and Subscriptions

Retired City Employees: annual membership is \$36 per year or \$400 for a lifetime (may be payable over four months or over four years in increments of \$100 per year).

- Subscription only is \$36 per year.
- Please download membership application form from our Web site, www.reccsf.org.

The Bulletin is the publication of the Retired Employees of the City & County of San Francisco, Inc., a nonprofit organization. *The Bulletin* is published to express the policies, ideals and accomplishments of the organization. Nothing shall be published herein that is racist, sexist, ageist or that is derogatory towards religious beliefs and other personal issues; nor shall be published anything in violation of Article VII, Section 1 of the Constitution. Editorial contributions from individuals, organizations and groups other than RECCSF and its members may be included in *The Bulletin* only upon the approval of the Editorial Committee.

Subscriptions to *The Bulletin* are available for \$36. Submissions to *The Bulletin* are solicited and encouraged and should be submitted to:

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3915 Irving Street, S.F., Ca. 94122-1294
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alfrmsf@aol.com and sheilamullen@mac.com

Al Casciato, Editor

RECCSF OFFICERS:

Sue Blomberg, President

Al Casciato, 1st Vice President

John Madden, 2nd Vice President

Claire Zvanski, Secretary

George Lau, Treasurer

Leo Martinez, Sergeant-at-Arms

Retirement Board Election Results

The results of the election for the seat on the Retirement Board were announced.

Brian Stansbury has been elected to fill the seat vacated by the retirement of Al Casciato.

Rest In Peace

The following members have recently passed away.

Mary E. Barber-Mccall	DPH	Mary Mir	GEN
John D. Coll	LIB	Gertrude O'Neill	DPW
Dona Farina	DPW	Sharon K. Onishi	DSS
Patrick E. Grimesey	FIR	Lucille M. Porter	GEN
Richard M. Marracq	FIR	Eugene F. Stluka	WTR

Health Service Committee Report

By Gerry Meister

Preparing For Open Enrollment: The First Calendar Plan Year

As the Health Service System moves into a calendar plan year, rather than a fiscal plan year, HSS is fully staffed. Since there was an open enrollment period only six months ago and there have been only minor changes in the three HSS-coordinated health plans, only a few members should need to request changes this time around. That should mean the October Open Enrollment will go smoothly—and perhaps it will.

But there's something else going on that has already cre-

ated quite a few problems, and may create more. After many years of planning for and talking about changing the City's computer technology system, the City decided this was the time to attempt to implement the long-delayed system for programming, keeping electronic records of all personnel, and updating the system contents. So the HSS staff has been working hours of overtime trying to manage the second open enrollment within a year. But, this time they will use a new, more complex system that has already required many extra hours of staff training and will probably require major adjustments to handle the data already in the

system, as well as newly entered data.

All 2013 member benefit guides and inserts were printed by early September and delivered to the mail house, where the federally mandated Summary of Benefits and Coverage will be collated into the open enrollment packets. Our packets are expected to arrive in the mail by the end of September or early October.

Offsite Open Enrollment—A First

HSS is coordinating five open enrollment events away from the HSS office: at the airport, SF General Hospital, Laguna Honda, 850 Bryant St. and the SFUSD headquarters at 555 Franklin St. Retirees will be able to go to any of these sites to consult with benefit analysts. Additional information about this will be included in your packet.

Conducting open enrollment is a major undertaking in the best of times. Our best wishes and thanks to the HSS staff as they undertake a second, even more challenging, performance within a single year.

Flu Shots

HSS and Kaiser will be sponsoring four flu shot clinics in October and November, since the October Health Fair—where shots are usually offered—can't be held this year.

Also, the Oct. 11 HSS Board meeting has been cancelled.

Questions? Comments? Please contact Health Service Committee Chair Ray Mason at (650) 344-1506.

Counsel to a Namesake

***To Thomas Jefferson Smith
Monticello, February 21, 1825***

This letter will, to you, be as one from the dead. The writer will be in the grave before you can weigh its counsels. Your affectionate and excellent father has requested that I would address to you something which might possibly have a favorable influence on the course of the life you have to run, and I, too, as a namesake, feel an interest in that course.

A Decalogue of Canons for observation in practical life.

Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day.

Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.

Never spend your money before you have it.

Never buy what you do not want, because it is cheap; it will be dear to you.

Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst and cold.

We never repent of have eaten too little.

Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.

How much pain have cost us the evils which have never happened.

Take things always by their smooth handle.

When angry count ten before you speak; if very angry, a hundred.

Submitted by Herb Meiburger

September Membership Meeting



Retirement Board candidate
Brian Stansbury. Elected 9-18-12



Retirement Board candidate
Gus Vallejo.



New member Grady Shawn
Allison, Dept. of Technology.



New member Jeff Chinn,
Human Services.



New retirees
(from left)
June Sturm
and Marta
Sankovich,
San Francisco
Unified School
District.



New member Annette Lonich,
Board of Supervisors.

Ignore those Health Insurer Mailers!

At this time of year, a flood of health insurer flyers tend to hit our mailboxes, enticing us to change to various health plans, or to sign up for drug or Medicare-supplement plans. *Ignore their pleas, and chuck their materials into your recycle basket.*

Respond only to the packet issued by the Health Service System during October Open Enrollment for coverage in calendar year 2013—that counts.

Retirement Committee Report

By Jean S. Thomas,
Herb Meiberger, CFA,
and Stephen Herold

The S. F. Civil Grand Jury Strikes Again!

A recent entrant to the “we hate public pension plans” derby is the San Francisco Civil Grand Jury’s June 2012 report, *Investment Policies and Practices of the San Francisco Employees’ Retirement System**, released to the public on Aug. 16, 2012. One of the report’s main contentions is that SFERS’ investment portfolio is “dangerously risky”—meaning that SFERS’ investment policies

and selections are reckless, and responsible for its recent disappointing financial performance. (Recall: SFERS’ fiscal year (FY) 2011/12 earnings were about 1.64%, well below the 7.666% expected return rate, and that other well-managed public plans, such as CalPers, suffered the same as SFERS.)

The Civil Grand Jury report is wrong, and here’s why:

- SFERS is expected to pay benefits forever; short-term earnings fluctuations are anticipated and planned for. Drastic conclusions about

Plan performance and “risky” status, based upon one, two, or even five years, are therefore misleading. SFERS’ overall returns over a ten year period—which is still a very short period given the Plan’s long term time horizon—are about 6.7%, certainly a much more representative picture of SFERS performance than a single year like FY 2011/12.

- SFERS’ recent financial performance has suffered from worldwide economic and political turmoil—such as the euro crisis, China’s reduction of

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S.O.S. from the Membership Committee!

Our RECCSF Membership System is in crisis! In order to ensure that *all* members continue to receive *The Bulletin* we’re asking for your help in updating our files.

We also would like to encourage many members as possible to sign up for *The Bulletin* by E-mail, in order to help curb rising printing/ mailing costs.

As soon as possible, please E-mail the following member update information to reccsf@att.net, or mail to the RECCSF office at 3915 Irving Street, San Francisco, CA 94122.

Name: _____ Retired from: _____
First Middle Initial Last Department - Date

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Telephone # () _____ E-mail address: _____

Birthdate: _____ Name of spouse or significant other: _____

Membership type: Annual ___ Life Member ___ Emeritus ___ Date joined RECCSF _____

What I would like to see at our monthly meetings: _____

Thanks for your input. RECCSF Membership Committee

Protect Our Benefits Report

By Gerry Meister,
Communications Chair

Protect Our Benefits is an independent political action committee which falls under the provisions of the San Francisco Ethics Commission and is not part of RECCSF. The opinions presented are those of the author.

No On Proposition 32

Since I first wrote about Proposition 32 for the September *Bulletin*, you've certainly seen much more about it in the news. It's now widely recognized as an intentionally deceptive initiative whose extremely wealthy backers claim it fosters political reform, when, in fact, it's intended to destroy the political strength of public and private

sector unions and other politically active membership organizations, while concentrating power in the secretive Super PACs that now dominate the political scene. Prop 32 sets no real limits on political fundraising or spending by corporations and their allies, and because of what it does *not* do, it's often called "The Special Exemptions Act."

Opponents include the California Labor Federation, public safety organizations throughout the state, the Nurses Association, the California Teachers Association, the Community College League, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Sierra Club, the League of Conservation Voters, Common Cause, the League of Women Voters—and, of course, POB.

Yes On Proposition 30

Proposition 30 is a progressive tax initiative that would raise \$6 to \$9 billion a year in new revenue for the next seven years, to begin restoring \$20 billion in cuts made to early childhood, K-12 and higher education in the past few years. Prop 30 would increase the annual income tax rate by 1% for individuals making more than \$250,000 and families making more than \$500,000, ranging up to 3% for families making \$1 million or more. The initiative would also raise the sales tax ¼ cent for four years. This new revenue would free up state general fund money to be used to close the state budget gap and provide cities and counties with funding for critical public safety, healthcare and other services.

Prop 30 is supported by the same groups that oppose Prop 32—a broad coalition of education organizations, labor, many other public interest groups, Democratic office holders, the governor—and POB.

POB Lawsuit Update

POB lawyers expect a decision from the attorney general regarding our lawsuit to restore the supplementary COLA that will aid them in determining their next legal moves. Check www.ProtectOurBenefits.org, for the latest information. To help pay for the lawsuit, *mail a check to: Protect Our Benefits (POB), P.O. Box 320057, San Francisco, CA 94132.* Your donation is not tax deductible under federal or state law.

Questions? Comments? Contact Gerry at gerrymeister1@earthlink.net, or POB, P.O. Box 320057, San Francisco CA 94132.

Travel Committee Report

By Beverly Pardini and
Marylou Allen

Sun–Fri, Oct. 28–Nov. 2

Two nights in Las Vegas at the downtown Golden Nugget; then short ride south for two-night stay at Laughlin Golden Nugget, situated along the Colorado River. Also included: self-guided tour of the Ethel M. Chocolate Company & adjoining Cactus Garden, and one-night stay at Chukchansi Gold Resort in Coarsegold.

Fri, Nov. 9

High Hill Ranch, located in Camino just above Placerville, is the first stop. Enjoy a BBQ chicken lunch complete with freshly baked apple pie before a motor coach tour with local guide. Browse High Hill Ranch craft booths before return.

Wed–Fri, Nov. 21–23

Leave all the turkey fixin's to someone else and join the group for a two-night stay at the Silver Legacy in downtown Reno. Included: a bountiful Thanksgiving buffet dinner & other casino visits.

Thur, Dec. 20

The Highlands Dell Lodge, located on the Russian River in Monte Rio, is serving a delicious early dinner while William Florian (formally with the New Christy Minstrels) entertains with songs from the '70s. Before return, a Santa Rosa-Rohnert Park-Petaluma area motorcoach holiday light tour.

Info: Marylou at
1 (800) 334-3465 or
mrylallen@yahoo.com.

Retirement Committee Report

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capital investment, U.S. high unemployment, etc. These macro factors are beyond investors' control; they have forced earnings performance and short-term expectations (i.e., benchmarks) downward for everyone.

- Even in the short term, SFERS earnings in FY 2011/12—and in the trailing three, ten and fifteen years—have been *above median when compared to its peers*. (Source: *Public Funds over \$1B*, a quarterly report prepared by Angeles, SFERS' outside consultants). In FY 2011/12, most asset classes within SFERS' portfolio earned single-digit positive returns, in line with their benchmarks. However, two asset classes' FY 2011/12 performance figures deserve special comment. *International Equities*, about 20% of total portfolio's market value: As expected, international equities suffered the most from macroeconomic conditions. SFERS' negative 14.1% returns for international equities were, therefore, not a

surprise, and in line with their negative 14.8% benchmark. *Real Estate*, about 10% of total portfolio's market value: On the other hand, real estate earned a whopping 20.1%, outstripping their 10.1% benchmark by almost double!

- Sophisticated risk measurement tools, as well as the simpler and time-honored standard deviation risk measurement techniques, show that SFERS portfolios in recent years have been somewhat *low risk*.

SFERS staff and outside consultants routinely prepare risk analyses and measurement reports for monthly board meetings; and these, as well as other financial data, are available to everyone just for the asking. *Why the San Francisco Civil Grand Jury did not use these materials when developing their June 2012 report is a mystery.*

SFERS Board members have

until mid-October to respond to the SF Civil Grand Jury report findings. We'll keep you informed. (*Note: The report is available online at www.sfsuperiorcourt.org/general-info/grand-jury.)

Other Point of Interest

- Governor Jerry Brown's Pension Reform Bill, AB340, has been signed into law. **It will not** affect SFERS active or retired employees, but will impact CalPers-covered employees who start CCSF employment on or after Jan. 1, 2013. There are more analyses being done by CCSF city attorney staff. We'll keep you apprised.

Questions? Comments? Contact Herb at herb.sf@gmail.com; Jean at jeansthomas@yahoo.com, or (415) 665-4149; or Stephen at Stephen.home@att.net, or (415) 664-1201.

New Words

Green Audit: analysis of a business' environmental impact.

Green-Collar: Of or relating to workers in the environmentalist business sector.

Homeshoring: Moving jobs to employees' homes (from offshoring).

Sheeple: Unquestioning followers (from sheep + people).

Truthiness: Quality of seeming true.

Webisode: Episode or short film made for viewing online.

And these are just 6 words from a list of 50! How will people ever learn the English language!

— AARP Bulletin Jan-Feb 2011

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of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 3. C. Total paid and/or requested circulation. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 3280. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 3185. D. Free distribution by mail and outside mail (samples, complimentary, and other free). 1. Outside-county: Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 0. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 0. 2. Inside-county: Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 0. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 0. 3. Mailed at other classes: Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date. 4. Free distribution outside the mail (carriers or other means). Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 300. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 200. E. Total free distribution. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 350. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 400. F. Total distribution. Average number of copies each issue during the preceding 12 months, 3580. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 3385. G. Copies not distributed. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 47. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 15. H. Total. Average number of copies each issue during preceding 12 months, 3627. Actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date, 3400. I. Percent paid and/or requested circulation (15C divided by 15G). Average during preceding 12 months, 92%. Actual for single issue published nearest to filing date, 94%. 16. This statement of ownership will be printed in the October 2012 issue of this publication. 17. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete.

Al Casciato, Editor.

The Bulletin
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Regular Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 10

United Irish Cultural Center,
45th Ave. & Sloat

Executive Board Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 16
Taraval Police Station

➔ **LOOK NOW AT YOUR MAILING LABEL.**
The month posted on the label
is the date your dues expire.



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Note to members

**Please keep RECCSF updated
with changes in address,
phone number and e-mail.**

Letters to the Editor Welcome at
alfrmsf@aol.com & sheilamullen@mac.com

The Bulletin
November Deadline:

• Friday, Oct. 12
5:30 p.m.

Please e-mail your articles to:
alfrmsf@aol.com &
sheilamullen@mac.com

Visit our Web site:

sfretirees.org

**RECCSF office
e-mail address:**

reccsf@att.net

Welcome, New Retirees

Upcoming General Membership Meeting Programs

Wednesday, Oct. 10

Our October general membership meeting will feature candidates for offices and supporters of propositions to help you make up your mind.

Oct. 10 – Regular meeting

Refreshments available: 11:10 – 11:50 a.m. • Program: 11:30 a.m. • Business meeting: noon • Bingo: 12:45 p.m.

United Irish Cultural Center, 45th Ave. & Sloat Blvd.